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and Lomita News

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CITY VOTES ON WATER DIST. FEB. 21

COUNCIL OFFERS \$92,500 FOR WATER COMPANY

COUNTER PROPOSITION MADE IN REPLY TO BONDHOLDERS' \$142,500 PRICE FOR PLANT

Long Parley at Special Meeting Monday Ends
With Council Giving Torrance
Co. Two Weeks to Reply

SUIT DELAYED TO AWAIT ANSWER

Los Angeles Attorney Represents Bondholders of Local
Company in Opening Negotiations; Nelson Favors
Purchase While Dennis is Opposed

In reply to a proposal by the bondholders of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company to sell the whole existing water system to the city for \$142,500 worth of 4 1/2 per cent city bonds at par; purchase the entire water bond issue, and dismiss all contemplated suits against the city—

The Torrance City Council offered to enter negotiations to purchase the water company's system at a figure based upon that portion which the city could use, at a price of \$92,500 to be paid in cash as soon as the \$400,000 bond issue, voted September 25, 1930, for a publicly-owned water works, is sold.

And the bondholders of the water company were given just two weeks in which to decide to take the city's proposition. If no answer or refusal is the result of this offer, the city will not waste any more time in filing its mandamus petition in the Appellate Court to clarify the sale of the \$400,000 bond issue.

That was the result of a long discussion held at a special council meeting Monday night.

Attorney Makes Offer
The bondholders' proposal was made by Col. J. W. Sutphen, Los Angeles attorney, who prefaced the offer with a review of preliminary negotiations with a group of prominent Torrance citizens.

Councilman Ed Nelson introduced Sutphen to the council and, after the attorney had finished his talk, led the discussion of the proposal. Nelson said he believed the city would save considerable money by considering the bondholders' offer, as it would save the cost of litigation in courts, the time for such proceedings, and the city would immediately have agreed upon a sale of its entire bond issue, and link up units of the new system with the present water works.

Mayor John Dennis vigorously opposed purchasing any part of the present water company's system that would not fit in with plans for a new system. He declared that the people voted \$400,000 for a new municipal system that had nothing to do with the present company's holdings.

Final Proposal Made
"We've fooled away six months by dilly-dallying on this suit to clear our bond issue and I can't see why we want to fool around with the water company any longer," the mayor declared.

Each of the councilmen stated his views on the matter. Attorney Sutphen and City Attorney Perry G. Briny argued at length on the sale of bonds at market with varying interest rates, but finally the subject came to a head with a motion by Councilman R. R. Smith, seconded by Councilman Carleton B. Bell, and unanimously passed.

The city would enter negotiations on a \$92,500 purchase price, which price is based upon those parts of the present system that could be used by the City Engineer in his plans for a new system; the money to be paid in cash from the sale of the Torrance Water Company; Sutphen described the manner in which the company was owned and bonded. The company was, he said, bonded by a blanket bond issue by the Associated Utilities.

Local Committee Formed
After presenting his credentials to act as an agent of the bondholders of the Torrance Water Company, Sutphen described the manner in which the company was owned and bonded. The company was, he said, bonded by a blanket bond issue by the Associated Utilities.

Had Written His Story
They quarreled and Deseran ran for an automatic shotgun. As he

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WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SALE OF WATER PLANT

In an effort to learn what the citizens, who are somewhat acquainted with the whole situation, think of the two proposals made at council meeting Monday night relative to the purchase of the Torrance Water Company's holdings here, either for \$92,500 (the city's price) or \$142,500, the bondholders' offer, the Herald interviewed:

W. Rufus Page, president of the Chamber of Commerce: "I'm in favor of settling with the bondholders of the water company on the basis fixed by the council. We've given them more than they mean to give. All controversy, I favor the council's \$92,500 proposition."

DeKalb Spurlin: "I'd like to see this water problem settled and I believe in the long run, the city would gain by accepting the bondholders' proposition as we can then sell our bonds for 4 1/2 per cent interest, where on the open market we would probably have to pay

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Keystone Man Charged With Wife Murder

Old Quarrel Ends Tuesday With Double Shooting; Daughter Wounded

Peter Deseran, 61-year-old Keystone resident, ended a three-year-old quarrel with his estranged wife and daughter Tuesday morning at his service station and store by mortally wounding Mrs. Victoria Deseran and severely injuring the daughter, Mrs. Fred W. Miller.

Mrs. Deseran died at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital at 6 o'clock yesterday morning. An inquest will be held at Stone and Myers chapel tomorrow, Friday, morning at 9:30 o'clock. Deseran is in the county jail charged with the murder of his wife and assault with intent to commit the murder of his daughter.

According to Deseran's story to deputy sheriffs shortly after the shooting, he was surprised at the visit of his wife and daughter at his store, 2198 1/2 South Main street, shortly after 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. Mrs. Deseran, whom he married 39 years ago, had been living at 329 Gertruda street, Redondo, and the daughter, wife of a soldier, at 525 West 21st street, San Pedro. The daughter had her three-year-old child with her, and told him she had come for some of her things in his house, Deseran said.

Had Written His Story
They quarreled and Deseran ran for an automatic shotgun. As he

(Continued on 4-A)

ASK COUNTY FOR \$15,000.00 WORK FUND

Early Decision on City's
Request for Aid
Is Expected

WOULD HELP 120 MEN

City Said "White Spot" So
Far as Charity Work
Is Concerned

High hopes are being entertained this week by four prominent citizens that the county will allocate \$15,000 for the purpose of relieving unemployment in Torrance in the very near future.

The four men, City Councilman R. R. Smith, City Treasurer H. H. Bailey, Sam Levy and Carl Hyde interviewed Supervisor Shaw in his office Tuesday afternoon and presented information and a map prepared by City Engineer Leonard for the purpose of securing \$15,000 as an emergency employment fund for street betterment, tree removals on the proposed route of Sepulveda boulevard, and other miscellaneous highway improvements in various parts of Torrance.

Such a fund would provide constructive employment rather than administration of charity. The sum, it was explained later by Carl Hyde, would provide 30,000 hours of work at 50 cents per hour, or would give 120 men employment three days a week for four months.

City a "White Spot" Now
Councilman Smith explained to the supervisor the mechanics of the Union Trade fund for employment of needy men and the efforts made by the city to relieve the situation here. He emphasized the fact that this community has about reached the end of its emergency work and that the county should assist with the problem now.

Sam Levy told Shaw that Mr.

(Continued on Page 3-A)

ADDED FUND MAY ASSIST FED. BLDG.

Craik Is Urged to Redouble
Efforts for Federal
Building Here

Congressman Joe Craik was urged this week to "redouble" his efforts to have this city included under the amplified program of governmental expenditures passed by Congress on February 7, in order that Torrance may get a much-needed Federal building.

A telegram from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce was sent the congressman to this effect because news dispatches carried the information that Congress authorized an additional \$100,000,000 public building fund on that date with the added provisions for speeding up existing construction to aid employment.

Lease Expires This Year
The additional authorization, when approved by the President, will bring the sum available to \$15,000,000 for public buildings outside the national capital.

It is believed that Torrance now stands an excellent chance to get an appropriation for a Federal building to house the postoffice. The lease on the present inadequate postoffice quarters expires December 1, 1931.

The telegram sent Craik by the Chamber follows: "Press dispatches state changed legislation affords increased building appropriations. May we again urge that you redouble efforts to have Torrance included under this amplified program for a Federal building. As appraised Torrance lease expires December this year. We hope your renewed efforts will assure a building."

"With Malice Toward None,
and Charity For All"



February 12, 1809

April 15, 1865

"The real Lincoln, the great Lincoln, is not a prophet and martyr. He is the simple, steady, resolute, unselfish man whose supreme ambition was to find out the truth of the questions which confronted him in life, and whose highest satisfaction was in following the truth he discovered. He was not endowed by nature with the vision of a seer. His power of getting at the truth of things he had won by incessant mental effort. From his boyhood he would understand, though he must walk the floor all night with his problem. Nor had nature made him a saint. His lofty moral courage in the Civil War was the logical result of life-long fidelity to his own conscience. From his boyhood he would keep faith with that which his mind told him was true, though he lost friend and place by it.

"When he entered public life these qualities at first won him position; but they cost him a position more than once. They sent him to Con-

gress, but, in 1849, they forced him out of public life. They brought him face to face with Douglas from 1854 to 1858, and enabled him to shape the moral sentiment of the Northwest, but later they defeated him. They made him Illinois' candidate for the presidency in 1860; but they brought upon him as President the distrust and hatred of even his own party. It took four years of dogged struggle, of constant repetitions of the few truths which he believed to be essential, to teach the people of the United States that they could trust him; it took a murderer's bullet to make them realize the surpassing greatness of his simplicity, his common sense, and his resolution.

"It is this man who never rested until he had found what he believed to be the right, and, who, having found it, could never be turned from it, who is the Real Lincoln."

—Ida M. Tarbell in her "Life of Abraham Lincoln."

ALL-CITY PATRIOTIC MEETING AT HIGH SCHOOL ON FEB. 25

Parade to Precede Program to Which All Residents of
Torrance and Surrounding Communities Are Invited

Extensive plans for an All-City Patriotic meeting at the high school auditorium to be held following a parade on Wednesday evening, February 25, were revealed yesterday by Earl Conner, commander of the American Legion post. The meeting and parade is being sponsored by the Legion and Spanish-American War Veterans.

All residents of Torrance and surrounding cities are cordially invited to attend the patriotic meeting. There will be no charge of any kind.

According to the plans made known yesterday, the parade will assemble at the P. E. station at 7:15 p. m., February 25, and wind through the business district starting at 7:30 o'clock. The first public appearance of the recently formed and uniformed—Bert S. Crossland post drum corps will be made at this time. The Gardena Valley Legion drum corps will also be in the line of march. At the high school auditorium, the program, beginning at 8 o'clock, will include musical numbers, possibly by the high school orchestra, and short but vital messages on patriotic subjects. The principal speaker will be Antonio

Hyde Attending Convention Now

Is at Sacramento Meeting of
State Secretaries

Carl Hyde, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, is attending the annual convention of the California Association of Commercial Secretaries at Sacramento today and tomorrow. Governor James Rolph, Jr. welcomed the delegates to the meeting at the initial session this morning.

Hyde is president of the Southern California Association of Commercial Secretaries. While in Sacramento, Hyde and his fellow secretaries will visit the state library, the departments of agriculture, finance, education and public works and the divisions of architecture and highways.

Shanteen Dresses have just arrived at Eby's new store. A wide variety of new colors and sizes from \$8 to \$2. Worth \$1.95, but selling at \$1.49. Another one if they fade. S. & H. Grogg Stamps. —Adv.

SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED TO DECIDE TORRANCE'S ENTRY IN COLORADO RIVER WATER PLAN

Saturday, Feb. 21 Chosen For Date of
Balloting Because of March 1
"Deadline" by District

MAYOR DENNIS CHAMPIONS PROJECT

All Councilmen and Several Prominent Citizens Express
Their Views at Special Meeting Monday Night
on Water District's Objectives

"Shall the city of Torrance enter the Metropolitan Water District to obtain, with other cities of the Southland, water from the Colorado river via the proposed Metropolitan Aqueduct?"

That's the question to be decided by the voters of this city, Saturday, February 21.

This date was set by the City Council at a special meeting Monday night because the time limit set by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District, within which Torrance may decide to enter the great association of progressive cities of Southern California, expires March 1.

Dennis Champions Project
There will be three precincts for the special election, with precincts 1, 2, 6 and 7 voting in one; 3, 4, 5 and 8 in the second, and 9, 10, and 11 in the third. Polls will be open from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m., and the majority of votes cast will decide the question.

Mayor Dennis brought up the question of the Metropolitan Water District following the discussion, and decision on the proposed sale of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company's holdings here, to the city—the report of which may be found elsewhere on this page.

All of the councilmen gave their views on the Metropolitan plan and a number of spectators, prominent men of Torrance, took part in the round-table consideration of the project which will guarantee water without stint for years to come to the cities of the southern coastal plane.

Hyde Champions Cause
Carl Hyde, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, gave what is believed to be one of the most brilliant and careful analyses of the Metropolitan's bearing on the future of the city. His talk was based on two points, one, that men and women of Torrance who have always the matter of the city's progress and security at heart should be "torch-bearers" for civic advancement and use this opportunity to guarantee Torrance's future by working for the Metropolitan Water District; his second point was that existing engineers' reports on the natural water situation show that the supply is constantly diminishing and to safeguard this and other cities' industrial and residential water, water from the Colorado river through the proposed Metropolitan Aqueduct was the only remedy.

Notices of the election were posted Tuesday because the law states 10 full days must elapse from the posting until the day of election. The council must canvass the vote on the first Monday after the election, which will be Monday, February 23, and the result of the balloting must be in the hands of the Secretary of State before March 1, the last date on which the city can take advantage of the Metropolitan Director's invitation to join the association of cities.

Long Beach Votes Feb. 17
Long Beach is voting on the Metropolitan plan Tuesday, February 17. The city of Fullerton on January 20 voted 15 to 1 to join the Metropolitan Water District. The following cities are already in the District: Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Colton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Bernardino, San Marino, Santa Ana and Santa Monica.

Besides the comments by members of the council, the following (Continued on Page 5-A)

WILMINGTON HOST TODAY TO DISTRICT

Harbor Chambers Group to
Hear Los Angeles
Publisher

Wilmington will be host late this afternoon and tonight to the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce at the California Yacht club. A 5 o'clock business session will precede a 6:30 o'clock dinner meeting.

E. Manchester Boddy, publisher-editor of the Los Angeles Illustrated News, will be the speaker of the evening. He has chosen for his subject, "The Trend of the Times."

All members of the Harbor District Chambers who wish to see the Los Angeles harbor will be taken on an excursion boat arranged through the courtesy of Burt Edwards, port manager, at 4 o'clock this afternoon. The return will be in time for the 5 o'clock business meeting.

Legislators to Attend
President W. E. Harris of the Wilmington Chamber will extend the welcome of the city to the visiting delegates of more than 50 civic organizations in this territory at the evening meeting. A. E. Henning, president of the Harbor District Chambers, will respond and preside throughout the dinner session.

It is expected that several members of the State Legislature from the territory of the Harbor District will be present at the meeting tonight. Henry E. Carter, state senator and dean of representatives, will be present and serve as host toastmaster to his colleagues from the Legislature, according to Carl Hyde, secretary of the organization.

Entertainment for the evening will be featured by the presentation of the Richards-Martin School of Dancing.

Rotary Club Grooms New Hermosa Club

President Sam Levy, four past presidents of the Torrance Rotary club, and John Glass, special representative of District Governor Arthur Crites, welcomed the newly formed Hermosa Beach Rotary club at a banquet held Tuesday night at the Surf and Sand beach club in Hermosa. The Torrance service club is sponsoring the Hermosa Rotary group, which has 20 charter members.

Past presidents J. W. Post, Dr. J. S. Lancaster, Dr. George Shilder and Carl Hyde assisted Levy in greeting the Hermosa Rotarians. Past District Governor Jack Williams, of Long Beach, was the principal speaker. The Hermosa club will meet next Friday night to elect officers.